



1 February 2006

# Montana Wing Observer



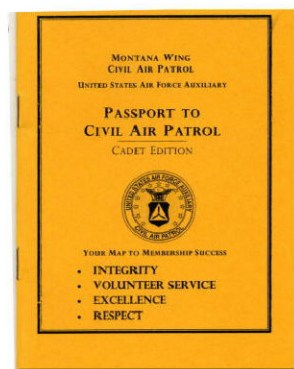
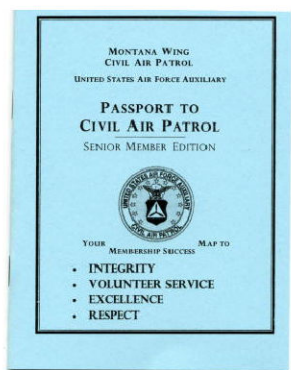
Montana Wing Commander Col. Jan Van Hoven with Wing Director of Communications Capt. Russell Westberg

## MT WING DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN--AGAIN

GREAT FALLS During the January 14 Quarterly Wing Staff Meeting at Malmstrom AFB, Montana Wing Director of Communications Russ Westberg was restored to his former rank of Captain. Capt. Westberg first joined CAP as a Wisconsin cadet in the 1940s. Years later, in Minnesota, he re-joined as a senior member and, as a member first of the St. Louis Park Squadron and then of the Edina Squadron, advanced in rank. However, until Wing Commanders Col. Jan Van Hoven of Montana and Col. Stephen Miller of Minnesota, joined forces in tracking down his records, Capt. Westberg had been wearing the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

## PASSPORT TO CIVIL AIR PATROL

GREAT FALLS The centerpiece of Montana Wing's new recruiting initiative was officially unveiled at last week's quarterly Wing Staff meeting. *Passport to Civil Air Patrol* is available in both Senior and Cadet editions and is a tool for mentors and recruits to use during a new member's first few months in Civil Air Patrol. The Passport Program is designed to give a tangible form to the often-discussed but sometimes nebulous concept of mentoring. Senior members are guided step-by-step through promotion to 2nd Lieutenant. A key point of the Passport Program is that the new senior member selects and begins study in a specialty track, and begins performance in the related staff position. It is hoped that this emphasis will strengthen the new member's commitment to CAP, as well as help squadrons build stronger staff structures. New cadets are guided step-by-step through attainment of Senior Airman rank, getting them off to a quick start. Upon a recruit's completion of Passport requirements within six months of official join date, Montana Wing will rebate the new member's first year's dues. Additionally, mentors who successfully mentor three recruits through the program will have their next renewal paid by Montana Wing. Upon joining, using a postcard in the Passport booklet, the new member registers in the program, which allows wing staff to monitor and assist squadrons in meeting program requirements. Assistance may include training, mentor support, Wing Staff squadron support visits, etc. Additionally, registration allows Montana Wing to earmark program funds for that recruit. The test program will end when all designated funds are committed. In the case a recruit does not complete the program, that person's earmarked funds will be returned to the program for use by other recruits. It is also an option for successful Passport participants to donate their rebate back to the program to sponsor a new recruit in the program. Questions about the program should be directed to your squadron commander.



Montana Wing's Passport to Civil Air Patrol booklets (right) are a handy, pocket-size guidebook for new members and their mentors

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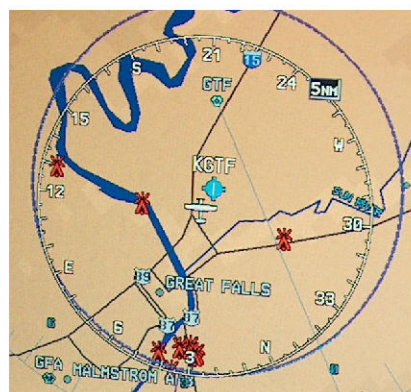
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# N702CP

## MONTANA WING ACCEPTS DELIVERY OF NEW GLASS COCKPIT CESSNA

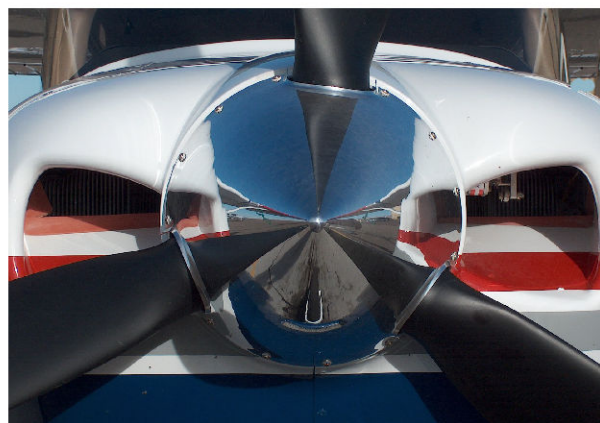
by State Director Joe Macklin

Just over a week ago, Lt. Col Tom Connor arrived in Great Falls in a brand new Cessna 182T model aircraft with only 25 hours on the airframe. The aircraft, tail number N702CP, sports a Textron-Lycoming IO-540 powerplant – a fuel-injected, six-cylinder, horizontally opposed direct drive engine of 540 cubic inch displacement. Three generations of eager pilots, two of whom had flown B-24 and B-25 aircraft back in WWII (Jim Brown and Don Lilienthal), two who had learned to fly in the 70's and 80's (Joe Macklin and Jan Van Hoven), and our newest addition



Cloaeup of one of the glass cockpit displays

(Doris Van Hoven, who soloed out in December 2005) were waiting somewhat impatiently in the lounge area of Holman Aviation for the



Meet "Charlie Papa," the newest member of Montana Wing's fleet

arrival of Civil Air Patrol's newest and most technologically advanced aircraft ever . . . the Cessna 182T Nav III Glass Cockpit. Lt. Col. Connor and Capt. Sage Olson flew to the Cessna factory in Independence, Kansas, and spent several days in intensive training in the new aircraft. After stopping in Billings, where another group of excited Montana Wing CAP members had greeted the new plane and the two pilots, Col. Connor brought the plane on the final leg of its journey to Great Falls.

## 6 GRADUATE FROM UNIT COMMANDER'S COURSE

### LEWIS & CLARK COMPOSITE SQUADRON HOSTS TRAINING

By MTWG Chief of Staff Major Rob Hoffman, Course Director

HELENA, MT--Six senior members completed a Unit Commander's Course hosted by Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron, Helena, MT. The course was held at the 1st 189th Montana National Guard Aviation Training Facility at Helena Regional Airport on January 28-29. The course, designed for current squadron commanders or individuals in squadron vice or deputy commander positions, covered material of concern to today's squadron leadership. A sampling of course content includes: adverse membership actions, budgeting, delegating authority, meeting planning, motivation, leadership skills, and successful unit practices. Graduates from the course include Capt. Gil Johnson; 1st Lts. Duane Lund and Dennis Coulson; and 2nd Lts. Carolan Bunegar and Jerry Lachenbruch. 1st Lt. Shelly Hoffman, who assumed command of Lewis & Clark Squadron in October, decided to brush up her commander skills by attending UCC for a second time. UCC is a wing-sponsored training program and is held annually in Montana Wing.



Left to right, front row: 2nd Lt Carolan Bunegar, Capt. Gil Johnson, back row: Major Rob Hoffman, 1st Lt Dennis Coulson, 1st Lt Duane Lund, 2nd Lt Jerry Lachenbruch. Photo 1st Lt. Shelly Hoffman.





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## WING COMMANDER PRESENTS NEW MONTANA WING CHALLENGE COINS

At the January 14 Wing Staff Meeting, Col. Jan Van Hoven presented the first of Montana Wing's new challenge coins as tokens of appreciation to staff. The coins were a project that Col. Van Hoven and State Director Joe Macklin brought into being.

### AN HONORABLE TRADITION

According to State Director Joe Macklin, military coins, which bear the unit crest on the front and whatever design the unit wants on the back, are given out by commanders and senior NCOs to recognize outstanding acts performed by soldiers, sailors and airmen in the course of duty. "Coining" is a relatively new U.S. military tradition, but has its roots in the Roman Empire, where coins were presented to reward achievements. Throughout military history, honoring others with coins was typically practiced among the officers and elite. Watch for the whole story in the Spring/Summer issue of Wingspan. Traditionally, they are given by "palming" during a handshake.

### THE STORY BEHIND MONTANA WING'S CHALLENGE COIN, BY COL. JAN VAN HOVEN

When I received my first "Challenge" coin way back in the dark ages in 1975 BC (Before Cadets), I had to have it engraved myself. After attending the Wing Commander's Course, I received my second coin from then National Commander General Bowling. This one put me on the path of searching for coins that could be given out from the Wing, a search that was put on hold as most coins were extremely expensive. Last year, our new SD and I had a talk about them, and through Joe Macklin's help, I again made inquiries into purchasing coins for Montana Wing. The first consideration was cost. Coins can be made in different shapes, sizes, and materials; of course, each one comes with a different cost. Unless I wanted something out of the ordinary, the round coin was the easiest. After shape, came the next question was casting material. Gold, Silver, Pewter, and Bronze are most popular, with Bronze being within our budget range. Next came the design. In the case of the Montana coin, the front face, with the CAP-USA seal and the four "Core Values," had already been die cast by other regions and wings. The reverse side was the challenge. Some wings had their shoulder patch in the center and their favorite saying or motto on the outside rim. The Montana Wing Patch was good, but what to have on the rim....? I wanted something that not only described Civil Air Patrol, but its members as well. I considered several suggestions, but nothing really seemed right until I saw an Air Force poster. Some of you have seen the same poster, a blue poster showing several past military aircraft, with the words "Born of Dreams Inspired by Freedom" written in pale blue. Not only does that describe the Air Force and Civil Air Patrol, but it describes each and every member of Montana Wing. Think about it.

So now Montana has a new "Challenge Coin." It is bronze, 1 1/2" in diameter, with the CAP-USA seal (colored) and the 4 "Core values" on the front side (heads), and with the Montana Wing Patch (colored) and "Born of Dreams – Inspired by Freedom" on the reverse (tails) side.

### CHALLENGE COIN RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, BY SD JOE MACKLIN

1. Displaying or "knocking" a unit challenge coin on a hard surface initiates a challenge.
2. Subsequently displaying or "knocking" a unit coin on a hard surface within 30 seconds of being challenged makes a successful response.
3. An unsuccessful response obligates you, the challenged, to buy the challenger a drink of his/her choice.
4. A successful response, however, obligates the challenger to buy you a drink of your choice.
5. Any number of members may be challenged at any one time.



Cadet Cody Reck, who attended the Jan 14 Quarterly Wing Staff Meeting on behalf of CAC, escaped Col Van Hoven's watchful eye and left before the "coin palming" to go to work. Col. Van Hoven tracked him down at Starbucks (above).



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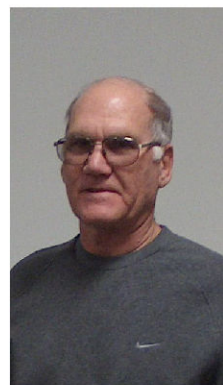
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## MONTANA WING EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO COMMUNICATORS

### BENEFACTORS

GREAT FALLS Jim Munch, top right, of Falls Communications, and Don Herman, bottom right, of Bresnan Communications, were present to receive certificates of appreciation presented at the Jan. 14 quarterly Wing Staff Meeting. Without the help of Munch, the recent repeater installation would not have been possible. Bresnan Communications has donated the use of facilities on Mt. Baldy, without which the repeater could not operate. Both firms' contributions were vital in making the wing's recent repeater installation successful. During last month's Lewistown SAREX, all communications were accomplished with the use of the new repeater.



### THREE SENIOR MEMBERS EARN I.G. COURSE CERTIFICATES

Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Shelly Hoffman (left), Wing Chief of Staff Maj. Robert Hoffman, and Wing Inspector General Maj.

Pat Walsh earned certificates for their attendance at Inspector General Training during the Rocky Mountain Region Conference in Jackson, Wyoming, last October.

## FLATHEAD COMPOSITE CADET JOINS MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD

Flathead Composite cadet Tyler Conklin, a recent Mitchell Award achiever, has joined the Montana Army National Guard. He will attend training this summer. 2nd Lt. Conklin is a Junior at Whitefish High School and will be going into the medic career field.

## MONTANA WING CALENDAR

New and Updated Items in RED

Find more information about listed events at [www.mtwg.cap.gov](http://www.mtwg.cap.gov)

### February 10-12, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD Training **has been cancelled**

### February 18-19, 2006

Winter Survival Training, Helena, MT

### February 25-26, 2006

Wing Cadet Competition, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

### March 2-4, 2006

Montana Aviation Conference, Helena, MT

*Printable Registration Form at [www.mtwg.cap.gov](http://www.mtwg.cap.gov)*

### March 10-12, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD Training, TBA

### March 18-19, 2006

Airman Leadership School, Location TBA

### April 28-30, 2006

Montana Wing Conference, Billings, MT

*Printable Registration Form at [www.mtwg.cap.gov](http://www.mtwg.cap.gov)*

### May 5-7, 2006

MT National Check Pilot School Course, Helena, MT

### May 13-14, 2006

Wing Leadership School, TBA

### June 9-11, 2006

Montana Guided SAR, Location: TBA

### June 18-24, 2006

Montana Wing Cadet Encampment, Fort Harrison or Malmstrom AFB

### July 15, 2006

Quarterly Wing Staff Meeting, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

### July 29-30, 2006 **new date**

SAR/DR/HLS/CD and Wing Picnic, Valier, MT

### August 19-20, 2006

Mountain Fury, Location TBA

### September 23-24, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD, Laurel, MT

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE FROM NATIONAL

WEB SITES MERGED: NHQ has merged the former "cap.gov" and "level2.cap.gov" Web sites. You can now navigate to all CAP content using the [www.cap.gov](http://www.cap.gov) link. Please add this link to your favorites for all future access. If you encounter any problems (broken links, missing data, etc.) or have any questions regarding this merger, please contact nhq at [webmaster@capnhq.gov](mailto:webmaster@capnhq.gov).